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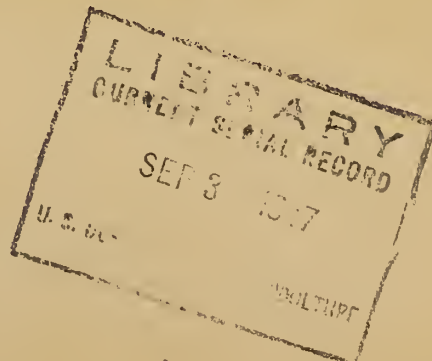
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* MEXICAN AGRICULTURE ADVANCES

Modern Equipment Follows Foot-and-Mouth Disease Campaign *

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A change in the Mexican farmers' centuries-old practice of cultivating their fields with oxen and wooden plows is coming in the wake of the activities of the Mexican-United States Commission for the Eradication of Foot-and-Mouth Disease. Among other cloven-hoofed animals, oxen are susceptible to foot-and-mouth disease. The campaign calls for the slaughter of thousands of these plodding beasts, with indemnities to their owners. Large numbers of Mexican small farmers - the campesinos - have used this indemnity money to buy mules to replace the oxen. With each mule goes a harness, without which the mules would be of little use as replacements for the oxen that work with a yoke fastened to their horns. Steel plows also are provided to the farmers who have sacrificed their cattle, to replace the wooden plows of ancient design used in many parts of the country. In return for their slaughtered oxen, Mexican small farmers have received more than 14,000 mules, with harnesses and steel plows, to carry on their usual farm operations.



(EDITORS AND WRITERS: You may obtain 8x10 glossy prints of any of the pictures here shown free on request to the Press Service, Office of Information, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D.C.)

(1) Small farmers, or campesinos, in many parts of Mexico still cultivate their fields with oxen yoked to wooden plows.

(2) Small farmers, or campesinos, in many parts of Mexico still cultivate their fields with oxen yoked to wooden plows.

(3) Small farmers, or campesinos, in many parts of Mexico still cultivate their fields with oxen yoked to wooden plows. A campesino near Queretaro, whose oxen have just been led off for slaughter, is temporarily at a standstill in cultivating his field.

(4) Mexican campesinos, near Salvatierra, wait with their indemnity money from the slaughter of their oxen to obtain purchase orders for the mules that will replace the oxen.

(5) Mules in a corral at Salvatierra ready for distribution to the campesinos as soon as they bring in their purchase orders.

(6) Jose Guadalupe Trejo, a Mexican farmer (left), turns in his purchase order to Major Jose M. Clave of the Mexican Army and gets mules to replace his slaughtered oxen.

(7) Harnesses for the mules that replace the slaughtered oxen are carried out from a supply station at Salvatierra.

(8) Four campesinos from Salvatierra pick out their steel plows at one of the supply stations.

(9) A campesino of the Salvatierra area starts for home with his new mules, harness, and plow.

(10) Two members of a United States congressional committee that observed the foot-and-mouth disease eradication operations in Mexico - Representative Eugene Worley of Texas (left) and Senator Edward Thye of Minnesota - visit a Mexican farm where a mule-drawn steel plow has taken the place of a yoke of oxen and a wooden plow. The owner of the new outfit - Juan Perez - tells his visitors that the steel plow is far better than the old wooden one for cultivating his rocky soil. Senator Thye inspects some of the seed corn to be planted in this field.